

Docket No. F-7296

Ser. No. 10/060,588

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

Claims 1 - 6. - (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) The biodegradable composition according to Claim ~~[[6]]~~ 10, wherein a ~~drop~~ decrease in average molecular weight of said composition subsequent to subjecting said composition to at least one of heat treatment ~~or~~ and radiation sterilization is not greater than 30% of an average molecular weight of said composition prior to said at least one heat treatment ~~or~~ and radiation sterilization.

8. (Currently amended) The biodegradable composition according to Claim ~~[[6]]~~ 10, wherein a drop in average molecular weight of said composition subsequent to subjecting said composition to heat treatment ~~or~~ and radiation sterilization is not greater than 30% of an average molecular weight of said composition prior to heat treatment and radiation sterilization.

Claim 9. - (Cancelled)

Docket No. F-7296

Ser. No. 10/060,588

10. (Currently amended) A biodegradable ~~composition according to Claim 6~~ polymer composition comprising a biodegradable polymer and a free radical scavenger, wherein said biodegradable polymer is at least one selected from the group consisting of: collagen, cellulose, starch, hyaluronic acid, chitin, chitosan, gelatin, albumin, polyglycolic acid, polylactic acid, polydioxanan, polyamino acid, polycaprolactone, copolymer of lactic acid and glycolic acid, copolymer of lactic acid and caprolactone, copolymer of glycolic acid and caprolactone, and polyhydroxybutylate; and said free radical scavenger is at least one selected from the group consisting of: polyphenols, tannic acids, gallic acids, vitamin E, and triarylisocianulate.

Claims 11. - 14. - (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) The biodegradable polymer composition according to Claim ~~[[6]]~~ 10, wherein said free radical scavenger is present in an amount from 0.01 to 10 wt. % by volume per 100 wt. % of polymer.

16. (Currently amended) The biodegradable polymer composition according to Claim ~~[[6]]~~ 10, wherein said free radical scavenger is present in an amount from 0.01 to 2 wt. % by volume per 100 wt. % of polymer.

Docket No. F-7296

Ser. No. 10/060,588

17. (Currently amended) The biodegradable polymer composition according to Claim [[6]] 10, wherein said biodegradable polymer composition is formed as a complex in with an inorganic compound.

18. (Currently amended) The biodegradable polymer composition according to Claim 17, wherein said inorganic compound is selected from the group consisting of: apatite, zeolite or and titanium oxide.

Claims 19. - 22. - (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) A method for producing a biodegradable ~~composition according to Claim 19~~ polymer composition comprising mixing a biodegradable polymer and a free radical scavenger and subjecting said mixture to at least one of heat treatment and radiation sterilization, wherein said biodegradable polymer is at least one selected from the group consisting of collagen, cellulose, starch, hyaluronic acid, chitin, chitosan, gelatin, albumin, polyglycolic acid, polylactic acid, polydioxanan, polyamino acid, polycaprolactone, copolymer of lactic acid and glycolic acid, copolymer of lactic acid and caprolactone, copolymer of glycolic acid and caprolactone, and polyhydroxybutylate; and said free radical

Docket No. F-7296

Ser. No. 10/060,588

scavenger is at least one selected from the group consisting of: polyphenols, tannic acids, gallic acids, vitamin E, and triarylisocianulate.

Claims 24. - 27. - (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A method for producing a biodegradable polymer composition comprising mixing a biodegradable polymer and a free radical scavenger and subjecting said mixture to at least one of heat treatment or and radiation sterilization, wherein said free radical scavenger being is present in an amount from 0.01 to 10 wt. % by volume per 100 wt. % of polymer.

29. (Currently amended) A method for producing a biodegradable polymer composition comprising mixing a biodegradable polymer and a free radical scavenger and subjecting said mixture to at least one of heat treatment or and radiation sterilization, wherein said free radical scavenger being is present in an amount from 0.01 to 2 wt. % by volume per 100 wt. % of polymer.

30. (Currently amended) The method for producing a biodegradable polymer composition according to Claim ~~[[19]]~~ 23, wherein said biodegradable polymer composition is formed as a complex ~~in~~ with an inorganic compound.

Docket No. F-7296

Ser. No. 10/060,588

31. (Currently amended) The method for producing a biodegradable polymer composition according to Claim 30, wherein said inorganic compound is selected from the group consisting of: apatite, zeolite ~~or~~ and titanium oxide.

32. (Currently amended) The method for producing a biodegradable polymer composition ~~of according to~~ Claim ~~[[19]]~~ 23, wherein the said composition is produced at ~~[[at]]~~ a temperature not more than 50~~[[degree]]~~ degrees Centigrade higher ~~[[the]]~~ than a melting temperature of the said biodegradable polymer.

33. (Currently amended) The method for producing a biodegradable polymer composition ~~of according to~~ Claim ~~[[19]]~~ 23, wherein the said composition is ~~produced in a dose of~~ sterilized with radioactive rays ~~in the range of~~ with an intensity of 1.0 to 3.0 Mrad ~~at sterilization~~.